



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010

No. 37

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, today inspire and encourage our lawmakers to do the work of justice and mercy so that all citizens will be bound together in respecting one another. Give our Senators an awareness of this Nation's rich diversity and heritage as well as the mutual goals that unite us as a people.

Lord, lead us all away from any self-sufficiency that makes us not feel our need for Your redeeming and refreshing grace. And Lord, we praise You for Your healing mercies that have been felt by our leader's wife and daughter, Mrs. Landra Reid and Lana.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last Thursday my wife was involved in a violent car accident.

We often say this Senate is a family. I am reminded of it time and time again when both triumph and tragedy unite us. Over the past few days, I learned all over again just how close, how genuine, how meaningful that family is. The tremendous outpouring of support for my wife and daughter from people across Nevada and the Nation and from my Senate family has deeply touched all of us. We have received literally hundreds and hundreds of e-mails and phone calls. We very much appreciate all the thoughts for Landra and every prayer on her behalf. The kindness and concern are overwhelming and really humbling.

It really was a close call, but we are grateful it wasn't worse, and we are confident she will be making a full recovery. It won't be tomorrow or the next day, but she will be back on her feet as soon as she can. My wife Landra and I have been married for 50 years. She is the strongest and most selfless person I know. If anyone can recover, it is she.

Before we begin this week's work, I wish to say to my Senate family and all of those watching: Thank you very much.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will turn to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message on H.R. 2847, the HIRE Act or the Jobs I bill. At 5:30 p.m., we will have a cloture vote on the motion to concur in the House amendments with respect to that bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me first say to my good friend from Nevada how good it is to hear such a positive report on Landra's recovery. We are all grateful that hopefully she will be home sometime soon and on her way to a speedy recovery.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the debate over health care continues, and this week all eyes are on the House. All we hear about is the arm-twisting and the horse-trading going on over there behind the scenes—the mad dash ahead of the big vote—and once again Americans just can't believe what they are hearing.

Behind all of these stories is a simple truth: Democratic leaders are doing everything they can to convince a handful of lawmakers that they should vote for a bill they don't really like and which their constituents overwhelmingly oppose. They are scrambling to get these wavering House Members to vote for a bill which claims to be reform but which promises to lead to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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